

## LISTENER GUIDE

### A True Woman Chooses Joy

by James MacDonald (True Woman '10)

Text: James 1:1–8

**“Why?” is the question that hits the hardest, hurts the most, lingers the longest.**

Why do we have trials in our lives?

#### 1. Trials produce \_\_\_\_\_.

Joy does not mean happiness.

Joy is a supernatural delight. It comes from God

- In the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. We were created to enjoy God and to delight in Him
- In the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. God is in control, and we can delight in that reality.
- In the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. There's a joy that we find in one another in the Body of Christ that you can't find anywhere else.

Trials obliterate happiness, but they enhance joy.

It will help to understand trials when you understand what you're here for.

- I'm not here for my ego.
- I'm not here for grins.
- I'm not here to be popular.
- I'm not even here to be well liked.

The reason why you and I are here is so that we can display the superiority of the life lived in God. And that's why God allows His children to go through suffering.

God's love is not a pampering love; it's a perfecting love.

Part of prayer is moving the heart of God and part of prayer is changing me as I learn to pray according to God's will.

You can only come to the joyful conclusion about trials by counting it, considering it, thinking about it.

#### 2. Trials produce \_\_\_\_\_.

“Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (v. 3). There are

some things you've got to know when the dark clouds gather.  
"Knowing that the testing."

The test has three questions.

- Do I believe that God is in \_\_\_\_\_?
- Do I believe that God is \_\_\_\_\_?
- Am I willing to wait by \_\_\_\_\_ until the darkness becomes light?

Instead of instructing God on how to resolve these things in our lives or asking Him over and over and over again, ask Him once and then thank Him all the rest of the times that He hasn't forgotten about it and that He's working on it

When the pressure is on, the number one thing that we want to do is get out from under it. So what God is trying to produce in you is the ability to remain under. God's trying to produce this single characteristic in you—"I will not give up."

Survey of 100 people—name something we want to do instead of remaining under trials or pressure.

- We complain
- We lash out.
- We bail.
- We despair.

You can't make it through trials without a deep, growing, abiding sense of your partnership with the God of the universe who's working out purposes beyond what we could think or imagine.

### 3. Trials produce \_\_\_\_\_.

Let trials have their perfect result so that you may be perfect and complete.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him (v. 5).*

If you need some insight, understanding, or wisdom about your trial, you are to ask God.

God's not going to answer all of the "why" questions, but He will answer this one: "What are You trying to teach me, God?"

You have to ask in \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_.

- The thing that God wants to work on is the heart.
- God starts with the hardest stuff first.
- God starts with the deepest things first.
- God starts with the most difficult things first.
- God starts with the blind spots first.

## LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

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#### 1. Trials produce joy.

Joy does not mean happiness.

Joy is a supernatural delight. It comes from God

- In the Person of God. We were created to enjoy God and to delight in Him
- In the purposes of God. God is in control, and we can delight in that reality.
- In the people of God. There’s a joy that we find in one another in the Body of Christ that you can’t find anywhere else.

Trials obliterate happiness, but they enhance joy.

It will help to understand trials when you understand what you’re here for.

- I’m not here for my ego.
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The reason why you and I are here is so that we can display the superiority of the life lived in God. And that’s why God allows His children to go through suffering.

God’s love is not a pampering love; it’s a perfecting love.

Part of prayer is moving the heart of God and part of prayer is changing me as I learn to pray according to God’s will.

You can only come to the joyful conclusion about trials by counting it, considering it, thinking about it.

#### 2. Trials produce staying power.

“Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (v. 3). There are some things you’ve got to know when the dark clouds gather.

“Knowing that the testing.”

The test has three questions.

- Do I believe that God is in control?
- Do I believe that God is good?
- Am I willing to wait by faith until the darkness becomes light?

Instead of instructing God on how to resolve these things in our lives or asking Him over and over and over again, ask Him once and then thank Him all the rest of the times that He hasn't forgotten about it and that He's working on it

When the pressure is on, the number one thing that we want to do is get out from under it. So what God is trying to produce in you is the ability to remain under. God's trying to produce this single characteristic in you—“I will not give up.”

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### **3. Trials produce life transformation.**

Let trials have their perfect result so that you may be perfect and complete.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him (v. 5).*

If you need some insight, understanding, or wisdom about your trial, you are to ask God.

God's not going to answer all of the “why” questions, but He will answer this one: “What are You trying to teach me, God?”

You have to ask in faith without doubting.

- The thing that God wants to work on is the heart.
- God starts with the hardest stuff first.
- God starts with the deepest things first.
- God starts with the most difficult things first.
- God starts with the blind spots first.